MONTANA'S INTERSTATE SYSTEM

IN MONTANA, A RURAL STATE, HIGHWAYS ARE THE LIFELINE AND THE LIFE BLOOD OF OUR ECONOMY."

— GOV. MARC RACICOT

40th Anniversary

U.S. Interstate Highway System

June 29, 1996

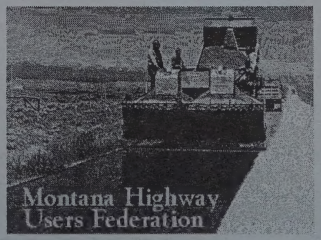
Montana Department of Transportation

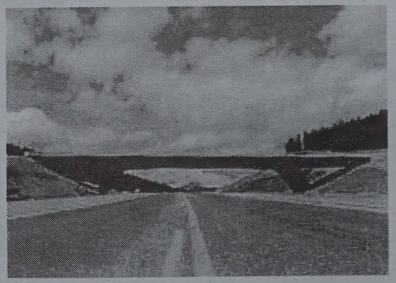
Photos in the display are from the Montana State Historical Society collection and from the archives of the Montana Department of Transportation.

Louis Chittim, Steve Kologi and Bill Dunbar provided recollections about building Montana's Interstates

Display and information produced with the cooperation of:

The Montana Contractors' Association





CELEBRATING AMERICA'S HIGHWAYS 1956–1996

Our Interstate Highway System — 40 Years Old This Year

Our Interstate Highway System has brought profound changes to our lives:

— Helped to shape our national economy and gave structure and unity to a large and diverse nation.

— Enhanced the nation's security and national defense system.

— Increased the safety of long-distance highway travel.

— Fostered a period of unprecedented growth and prosperity.

— Postitioned the country to assume and maintain global leadership in trade and commerce.

Interstate Facts and Figures

Cost to complete the U.S. Interstate System — $124,256,000,000

Cost to compete Montana's portion of the system —$1,226,060,000

1995 costs for major maintenance of Montana Interstate pavements:

U.S. tax — $34,319,394
Montana — $3,295,075

Miles of Interstate in Montana — 1,191 — 9th most Interstate mileage of all U.S. states

% of the state's population living within a few miles of an Interstate highway — 89%

% of state's freight being hauled on an Interstate Highway
Inbound — 94%
Outbound — 75%

Although Interstate Highways in Montana comprise only about 1.7% of the state's roads, 24% of all vehicle travel in Montana is on Interstate routes.

Did You Know?...

It took 30 years to complete Montana's Interstate Highways. The first project was a two-lane section near Garryowen, south of Hardin, built in 1958. The last section was built in 1988 at Red Rock, south of Dillon.

Montana's Interstate Highways include 813 bridges and 227 interchanges.

The lifespan of Interstate pavment is about 12 years.

Within the next decade viturally all of Montana's Interstate pavement will need resurfacing.

It will cost about $550 million over the next 10 years to maintain Montana's Interstate roads.

Montana has sole responsibility for plowing snow, patching potholes and sanding icy spots on Interstate roads. Annual cost — about $10.5 million a year, or about $4,400 a mile.

Federal fuel taxes pay for about 93% of the cost of repaving or pavement improvements on Interstate Highways in Montana.